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Date: July 11, 2003

TO: Examiner Khiem D. Nguyen  
Art Unit 2823

FACSIMILE NO.: (703) 746-9179

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Re: Supplemental Reply and IDS to Office Action dated April 2, 2003  
Application No.: 10/045,354  
Filing Date: November 7, 2001  
Our Ref: AMDP714US

Examiner Nguyen:

Attached to this cover sheet are the:

Supplemental Reply to the Office Action (9 pages)

Supplemental IDS (3 pages)

Fee Transmittal for payment of the extra claim (1 page)

PAGES TRANSMITTED INCLUDING THIS PAGE 13

Docket No. AMDP714US

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Applicant: Angela Hui et al.  
Application No.: 10/045,354  
Filed: November 7, 2001  
For: AN INNOVATIVE METHOD OF HARD MASK REMOVAL

Examiner: Khiem D. Nguyen  
Art Unit: 2823

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for: (a) pending applications or (b) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the following application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120:

Serial No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding any document, publication or other information for which a date is not given on the attached PTO-1449, Applicant(s) believe(s) the same may qualify as "prior" art to this application and should be treated accordingly, although Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to contest the prior art status of any document, publication or information, should issue arise.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):

- (a) \_\_\_\_ Copy of each English language version of a search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report.
- (b) \_\_\_\_ Attachment entitled "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents".

3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) \_\_\_\_ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) \_\_\_\_ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required certification is given below or, in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1733 for consideration of this Statement.

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- (c) ☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits after a first or second submission under 37 C.F.R. 1.129(a).
- (d) ☒ After the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.
- (1) ☒ The required certification is given below, or
- (2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
- (3) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1733
- (e) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.
- (1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1), or
- (2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 50-1733

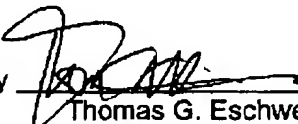
4. Certification (if applicable)

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.
- (b) ☒ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1733

Respectfully Submitted,

ESCHWEILER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

Date July 11, 2003

  
Christine Gilroy